



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

Brater Press Release

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SEN. BRATER TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETING First of Three Environmental Task Force Forums

Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) will host a community-wide meeting on **Thursday, May 13 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, Room 101, Ann Arbor** to discuss the state of Michigan's environment. The program will include presentations by Dr. Michael D. Cabana, MD, MPH with the Department of General Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, and Kate Weber of LocalMotion, an organization dedicated to raising public awareness of the link between environmental toxins and children's health. Brater will also be joined by Senate colleagues and task force members Mickey Switalski (D-Roseville) and Martha Scott (D-Detroit). The forum is sponsored by a Senate Democratic task force to study the impacts of key environmental issues on the health of Michigan children.

"We're focusing on children because children eat more, drink more, and breathe more per pound than adults and thus may ingest more pollution and toxins per pound of body weight than adults," Brater says. "Children also spend more time out-of-doors than adults, exposing them to disproportionate amounts of air and soil pollution."

The focus on children is also a response to their vulnerability to environmental hazards like lead paint, with their bodies absorbing 50 percent of the lead they ingest compared to a 10 percent rate in adults. Also, because their systems are still developing, children are more susceptible to environmental threats. A pollution exposure that would not harm an adult may cause lifelong problems for a child because of their longer life spans and evolving central nervous systems.

The environmental forum is one of three such task force sessions being held across southeast Michigan during the next several weeks hosted by the Senators. The second forum, hosted by Sen. Scott, will be held in Highland Park on Thursday, May 20th to discuss lead poisoning prevention. The meeting will be held at the Highland Park Career Academy, Glendale at Second. Sen. Switalski will host a third forum on June 3rd at Metro Beach in Harrison Township addressing clean beaches. Both are expected to be joined by a panel of experts on the topics.

For more information on the Town Meetings, call 517/373-2406.

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